



CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

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February 25, 1981

WAXMAN OPPOSES REAGAN HEALTH CUTS

Congressman Henry A. Waxman (D-Los Angeles) expressed alarm at many of the cuts in federally funded health programs proposed by President Reagan in his budget message. Waxman was especially critical of the proposals to sharply curtail the Medi-Cal program. This program is the primary source of health coverage for lower income families, the aged, poor and the permanently disabled.

Waxman said,

"I support the President's broad goal of reducing unnecessary federal spending. I do not consider current health spending to be excessive. I will do my best to prevent Congress from approving cuts in key health programs."

Waxman, an expert in health issues who once chaired the California State Assembly Health Committee, said he found the Reagan proposals "unsound" on purely economic grounds as well as on humanitarian grounds.

"The Reagan proposal cuts programs for disease prevention and early detection. Consequently spending is focused on intervention at a late stage when a person has already developed a serious chronic ailment or is in the throes of a full-scale medical emergency. Prevention and good routine care is the only economically prudent approach."

Waxman said he was especially indignant at the negative consequences Reagan cuts would have on infants and children.

"About half our Medi-Cal recipients are babies and school age children. Reduced health care for them means short term suffering and the risk of longterm medical problems that might have easily been corrected if discovered and treated at an early age."

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